

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03460 170802Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8404
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3460

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SPON, SY
SUBJ: SYRIAN PRESS REACTION TO SAUNDERS' STATEMENT AND
VP MONDALE'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

1. SYRIAN PRESS ALL BUT IGNORED SAUNDERS' CONGRESSIONAL
TESTIMONY AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VP MONDALE'S
PENDING VISIT TO ISRAEL. ONLY PAPER TO COMMENT WAS TISHRIIN
WHICH RAN EDITORIALS ON THE TWO SUBJECTS ON JUNE 14-15,
RESPECTIVELY.

2. SAUNDERS' TESTIMONY, EDITORIAL ASSERTED, "CONTAINED
AN ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN MIDEAST POLICY AND AMERICAN STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA WITH A CLARITY THAT WAS OFTEN
ABSENT FROM THOSE OF PREVIOUS US ADMINISTRATIONS. THE
REASON FOR THIS CLARITY IS APPARENTLY ATTRIBUTABLE PRIMARILY
TO THE FACT THAT THE US HAS FOUND ITSELF AFTER THREE DECADES
COMING VERY CLOSE TO REALIZING ITS MOST IMPORTANT GOALS IN THE
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REGION..AFTER THE SADAT REGIME AND THE SO-CALLED MODERATE
STATES IN THE AREA HAVE PRACTICALLY TAKEN IT UPON THEMSELVES
TO CARRY OUT AMERICAN SCHEMES." THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO
WARN THAT "THE US WHILE ASSESSING ITS POLICY IN THE AREA, DOES
NOT OVERLOOK THE DIFFICULTIES FACING IT DESPITE THE 'SUCCESSES'
IT HAS SCORED, SINCE THE FOUNDATION ONWHICH SUCH 'SUCCESSES' ARE
BASED CONTINUES TO BE DEEPLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE GOALS OF THE

ARABS' NATIONALIST STRUGGLE."

3. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY THE SAME PAPER IN COMMENTING ON VIP
MONDALE'S VISIT TO ISRAEL NOTES THAT "WHEN ANNOUNCING THE VISIT
CARTER REAFIRMED THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN
HIS COUNTRY AND ISRAEL AND THE AMERICAN PLEDGE TO DEFEND
HER...THE AMERICAN POSITION ON A SETTLEMENT IS IDENTICAL WITH
THAT OF ISRAEL AND THE EVENTUAL TARGET IS TO RESTORE AMERICAN
DOMINATION OF THE AREA."

PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

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